

Transit Bus Safety and Security Program Federal Transit Administration

Overview of Program



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

What is the Transit Bus Safety and Security Program?

- A roadmap to promote continuous improvement in safety, security and emergency preparedness for passengers and employees
- A means to provide practical technical assistance and resources to rural (5311) and small urban (5307) transit bus providers
- A voluntary partnership between Federal government, State governments and industry

A little background

- The Program supports FTA's mission to achieve the highest levels of safety, security and emergency preparedness for passengers and employees of transit bus providers
- The Program emphasizes
 - Coordination and collaboration with stakeholders
 - Incremental and sustained progress
 - Delivery of practical and effective technical assistance

A little more background

- The Program lays out effective principles in the *Transit Bus Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Excellence – A Roadmap* provides
 - View at <http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov/help.php?id=6>
- The Program promotes an open dialogue on safety, security and emergency preparedness issues

Who is involved in the Program?

- FTA's Program Partners
 - Original co-signors to the 2003 MOU
 - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
 - American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
 - Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)
 - State DOTs
 - National RTAP
 - Sister Federal Agencies (FMCSA, DHS)
 - State transit associations
 - Educational institutions
 - Training Institutions (TSI and NTI)
 - Providers across the nation

How do the Partners work together?

- Through the Program Working Group
 - Consists of representatives from Partner agencies
 - Members share information and discuss program direction and implementation strategies
 - Teleconference calls support periodic communications
- Through coordination at workshops and conferences
- Through ongoing interaction with FTA Project Team
 - Emails and outreach

Who should take advantage of the Program?

- Public transit bus providers
 - Current focus is on 5311 and small 5307 grantees
 - Grantees looking to establish safety, security and emergency preparedness programs
 - Grantees looking to improve on existing programs
- State DOTs
 - Critical partner in managing relationship with 5311 sub-recipients
 - Some state DOTs have safety and security requirements
- Those interested in advancing the Program

What can transit providers gain from the Program?

- Familiarization with principles in the Program's *Roadmap to Bus Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Excellence*
- Onsite assistance from FTA through the voluntary reviews
- Orientation to the Program through FTA-sponsored state DOT Seminars
- An evaluation of their programs using the website self-assessment tool (FTA does not collect or track this data)
- Access to over 1,000 resources from the resource website to build/strengthen programs
- Connection and communication with peer agencies through website forums

What is the “Roadmap?”

- Provides the “why this is important”
- Founded on established practices in the industry
- Stresses the importance of integrating safety, security and emergency preparedness principles into all facets of operations and maintenance
- Discusses each common and key element to safety, security and emergency preparedness, prompting consideration by each provider
 - Overview of topic’s importance
 - Highlights relevance to enhancing provider programs

What the “Roadmap” is not

- Compliance-based standard
 - Program is voluntary
 - FTA understands that not all elements may be applicable to all transit providers
 - FTA recognizes that elements will be scalable in implementation

What are the primary methods for delivering the Program to industry?

- Program resource website
- State DOT Orientation Seminars
- Voluntary onsite reviews

What is on the Resource Website?

- Over 1,000 easy to find, practical resources and tools
 - Checklists, templates, forms, how-to's
- Self-assessment
 - Educational tool to help you transit providers identify strengths and weaknesses
 - Resources are mapped to each question for quick display/bookmarking
- Community forum
 - Ask questions or provide support to peers
 - “Focus the Discussion” – vote on topics for future webinars
- News and events
- Other useful tools and information

<http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov>

What is the purpose of registering on the website?

- Provides user full access to all site tools
 - Self-assessment
 - Dashboard
 - Community forums
- Helps target effective practices to users based on interests and needs
- Allows users to “bookmark” resources from various locations for later retrieval from Dashboard
- Dashboard provides opportunity to specify interests and request voluntary onsite reviews

What takes place during a state DOT orientation seminar?

- Each Transit Bus Safety & Security Orientation Seminar provides an effective mechanism
 - to familiarize stakeholders with the program's objectives
 - to develop and make available effective practices and resources that address the needs of transit bus agencies around the nation, regardless of their size, level of funding, or service requirements
 - for program stakeholders to meet and share challenges and best practices
 - to demonstrate the resource website
- Seminars are typically day in length
- FTA funds meeting space and trainers
- FTA provides training and materials
- State DOTs coordinate with sub-recipients to promote attendance

What take place during a voluntary onsite review?

- Reviews typically last 1 – 2 days depending on size of system
- Reviews are not compliance-based
- Program Team administers checklist through interviews with grantee personnel
- Program Team reviews records and documentation
- Program Team reviews 6 major categories discussed in *Roadmap to Transit Bus Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Excellence*
- A Final Report is delivered with recommendations
- Program Team provides technical assistance while onsite and with the delivery of the report

How are providers being called to action?

- Visit <http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov>
 - Download and read the Roadmap
 - Read about the Program
 - Review “Getting Started” ideas and “First Steps”
 - Browse the Resource Library
 - Register
 - Take the self-assessment
- Request a voluntary onsite review from FTA
 - Make request from your user Dashboard page
- Ask your state DOT to host an Orientation Seminar

What should I do first when I visit the website?

- Click on “Research” – action item 1
 - Download and review Roadmap
- Register – action item 2
 - To access self-assessment tool and forums
- Build – action item 3
 - Look for resources they know they need to get started
- Test – action item 4
 - Identify needs and access resources targeted to help them fill gaps
- Connect – go to the forums and ask questions or help others
- Onsite reviews – submit a request to FTA



Want to get started today?

- Visit <http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov>
- Contact FTA's Project Team
 - Ms. Carole Ferguson, FTA Program Manager
 - Carole.ferguson@dot.gov
 - Mr. Jim Caton, Project Manager
 - jcaton@bcgtrans.com
 - Mr. Ream Lazaro, Technical Manager
 - rlazaro@bcgtrans.com
- Contact your state DOT
- Contact your FTA Regional Office